

14 November 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Information Systems Board Members

FROM:

[redacted]
Executive Secretary to the Board

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SUBJECT: Minutes of 12 September 1984 Meeting of the
Information Systems Board

1. The Information Systems Board met on Wednesday,
12 September 1984. [redacted] (ExDir) presided; participants
included Board members: [redacted]

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2. [redacted] asked the Board members to send any additions or
corrections to the minutes of the 19 July meeting to [redacted]
[redacted] He commented that the Board had grappled with several
problems over the past year, suggested that the Board and Working
Groups were useful activities (if only for exchanging information
and bringing people together who needed to be talking), but
expressed a desire for more forward motion in the next year. He
perceived a need for an Agency constitution or policy on information
systems which would provide guidelines and outline responsibilities
without inhibiting new ventures or creating unwieldy management
processes. [redacted]

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3. [redacted] then introduced [redacted] who briefed the
Board on the Executive Information System Working Group's final
report. [redacted] thanked the Working Group for its effort and
noted that the recommendations, while not surprising, were well
stated and supported. He next asked Board members who used
management support systems to describe their experiences. [redacted]

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4. Messrs. [redacted] extolled their systems,
each based on the Wang Alliance. The OD&E system allows managers to
review papers at any stage of drafting, to communicate with one
another and with contractors, and to maintain their calendars.
[redacted] noted that budget databases and applications would soon
be added. [redacted]

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that the OC system had improved efficiency by reducing telephone tag between managers and all but ending the use of hard copy reports. He mentioned two drawbacks -- slow response time since the system is becoming overloaded and the erosion of personal contact between managers. [] also lauded the Wang management system used in OSO, but he remarked that security problems related to its use had led his office to set up separate compartmented systems which prevent access by any one user to all the data in the system.

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[] also reported favorably on the experiences of IMS, calling its Wang system a great time saver. []

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5. [] opined that no system should be built unless senior executives intend to use it and further suggested that the Agency's electronic mail system (AIM) should be used initially with Delta Data terminals for each senior manager. [] suggested that, from his perspective, a manager was primarily focused on office level information and that an Agency-wide system was not needed. He felt the Wang was adequate for OD&E and would be unwilling to give it up regardless of other capabilities. []

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6. [] stated that the Board was not "obligated to increase management frustration" by providing an unfriendly system. He did, however, believe that senior managers needed to begin using and understanding ADP systems as soon as possible and asked what system would be the cheapest and quickest to establish.

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[] responded that both the Wang and VM (AIM) systems could be quickly configured as executive information systems and suggested that it was necessary for senior executives to get a feel for current systems so that they could better articulate the capabilities they needed. [] suggested

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the Wang Alliance be used. After several minutes discussing the options, [] tabled the Working Group's recommendation pending further reflection. He told the Board that he would review the options and make a decision. He then adjourned the meeting. []

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Recorder's Note: The day after the Board meeting, [] established the Executive Net, based on the VM facilities of AIM, including the DCI, DDCI, D/OLL, Comptroller, DDO, DDS&T, DDI, DDA, Executive Secretary and himself. []

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7. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 16 November 1984, at 1300 hours in the DCI Conference Room (7D64). Cray Research, Inc., will brief the Board on supercomputer applications. []

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1 - D/OSO
1 - C/IMS
1 - C/ASG
1 - ER
1 - Planning Staff
[] JAL

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